



**THIRD CULTURE KID'S EFFECT ON CHARACTER OF
CADY HERON IN *MEAN GIRLS***

**A THESIS
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Bachelor Degree Majoring in American Cultural Studies
in English Department
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis entitled “Third Culture Kid’s Effect on Character of Cady Heron in *Mean Girls*” by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone’s paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 9th May
2017

Laily Hapsari

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“ONE DAY I’LL KNOW IF I GO THERE’S JUST NO TELLING HOW FAR
I’LL GO”*

(Moana, Walt Disney)

*“YOU ARE BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM,
AND SMARTER THAN YOU THINK”*

(Winnie The Pooh, Walt Disney)

*“IT’S GONNA BE OKAY, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOUR ROCK
BOTTOM IS, YOU CAN RISE ABOVE IT AND YOU CAN COME BACK”*

(Demi Lovato)

This thesis is dedicated to my caring family and friends,

also everyone who helped me get through this paper.

Thank you very much.

APPROVAL

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, she will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this thesis better.

Finally, the writer expects that this thesis will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn something about research on intimacy, passion, and commitment, as the aspects of love.

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Laily Hapsari

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ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the movie, *Mean Girls*, specifically one of the character, Cady Heron, as a Third Culture Kid trying to adapt in new society. The purpose of this study is to understand the effect of Third Culture Kid in the movie character in socializing with the new surroundings and explain the way how one of the characters in *Mean Girls* adapts to the new surroundings. The writer uses library research to collect the data with the novel as the main data, and several relevant books, journals, articles, also online documents and websites are used as the supporting data. The intrinsic aspects cover characters, setting, and conflicts. In the extrinsic aspect, the writer uses Irwin Altman and Dalmas Taylor's Social Penetration Theory which is applied in the thesis to analyze the problem. The result of this thesis proves that according to Irwin Altman and Dalmas Taylor's Social Penetration Theory, Cady Heron uses her Third Culture Kid context to evade social isolation whilst preserving her identity through several roles in adapting in the new surroundings.

Keywords: Third Culture Kid, Social Penetration Theory, Mean Girls

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As known for its attainment in the movie industry, America, has contributed various ideas that is given to medias. America uses the most popular media which is movie that is an audio-visual media to express ideas, critiques, and opinions through the message delivered in the movie to the audiences. Many movies were and are released till this day and on forward. America has improved its brilliancy in movies.

According to Peter Decherney (2005:14) on *Hollywood and the Culture Elite: How the Movies Became American*, Hollywood has improved its existence through American movies in order to sustain both Hollywood and America's identity. Not only as to sustain its identity but being dominant in the movie industry, America has improved its economics from the movie that is watched by audiences. The ideas, lifestyles, and images in the movies are shown to the audience and from the movie itself; the audience can grasp the whole idea of the movie. The audiences are also indirectly behaving generally like what is demonstrated from movies.

[Culture is] the various standards for perceiving, evaluating, believing, and doing that... [a person] attributes to other persons as a result of his experience of their actions and admonitions.... Insofar as a person finds he must attribute different standards to different sets of others, he perceives these sets as having different cultures. (Ward Goodenough, *Culture, Language, and Society*, 1981)

Growing up outside of America and or mainly outside of the culture, people are shaped in different ways. Starting from the lifestyle, the society, the culture, and many more. From growing in different cultures, people are assured to adapt to a new society when entering the American culture. Adapting to new cultures takes time and socialization.

One is called a Third Culture Kid when entering a new place from the first place and adapts to a new culture. According to Pollock and Van Reken on their book, *Third Culture Kid: Growing Up Among Worlds*;

A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her development years outside of the parents' culture. The TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership of any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCK's life experience, the sense of belongings is in relationship to others of similar background (Pollock 19).

A Third Culture Kid could be someone who grew up as a diplomat kids, military kids, and many more. In this study, one of the character that will be discussed is a Third Culture Kid because of the parents' job that is posted in America.

Mean Girls is a 2004 American movie which genre is comedy. The director of the movie, Mark Waters, is also known for other movies such as *Freaky Friday* (2003), *Just Like Heaven* (2005), and *The Spiderwick Chronicles* (2008). This movie is produced by Paramount Pictures, M. G. Films, and Broadway Video. This movie talks about female high school group and the effects on girls; there are so many dramas in the "girl world".

In brief, Cady Heron, one of the character in the movie, is a 16-year-old teenage girl that has lived in Africa for 12 years. Both Cady Heron's parents are research zoologists in Africa. Cady's mother got offered tenure at Northwestern University and at that point, it was time for Cady to say goodbye to Africa and hello to high school. It was hard for Cady to adapt in her new surroundings because she was rather different as a Third Culture Kid but the time goes along, she starts to be one of them unconsciously.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

In writing this thesis, the scope of the study is required to limit the object after watching *Mean Girls*. The writer analyzes the movie and specifically one of the character, Cady Heron. The intrinsic and extrinsic aspects will be discussed; as for the intrinsic aspect, narrative and cinematic elements and as for the extrinsic aspect will be the problem that will be analyzed about the character, Cady Heron, as a Third Culture Kid trying to adapt in new society.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to understand the stages of being a Third Culture Kid in the movie character in socializing with the new surroundings and explain the way how one of the characters in *Mean Girls* adapts to the new surroundings.

1.4 METHODS OF THE STUDY

In order to support the study, thesis must have a base to build up the body. The writer uses two methods which are method of research and method of approach.

1.4.1 Method Of Research

In method of research, the writer uses library research to support the research as for essential in resource, such as library books, journals, newspapers, and other printed medias. Also, this thesis is also supported by electronic sources such as e-books and websites.

1.4.2 Method Of Approach

In method of approach, the writer uses objective approach, sociology of literature approach and Irwin Altman and Dalmis Taylor's Social Penetration Theory which will be applied in the thesis to analyze the problem. As stated by Wellek and Warren, an intrinsic approach is "a concept including both content and form so far as they are organized for aesthetic purposes. The work of art is, then considered as a whole system of sign, or signature of signs, serving a specific aesthetic purpose" (1977 : 141). As digging out the movie will be the work of art, this thesis will be analyzed through various elements, such as, setting, character, and conflict.

In sociology of literature approach, as written in the journal article, The Modern Language Review Vol. 36, No. 1 by W. Witte, it is understood that sociological approach to literature is accepted broadly and experienced as can be seen on the statement below,

-the belief in the existence of universal values and significances that endure while all else changes. On the contrary, if there be such things, then the sociological approach would help to reveal and define them. Either it would enable the critic to detach those elements in a work of literature which merely of the time and, in the sense, accidental; or it would help to show how human experience, though limited and localized in time and space, may be universalized and made permanent in literature. (1941 : 92)

According to Altman and Taylor in their book *Social Penetration: The Development of Interpersonal Relationship*, “The social penetration theory states that as relationships develop, communication moves from relatively shallow, non-intimate levels to deeper, more personal ones.” (1973) In Altman and Taylor’s perspective, they compared people to onion or in other words, Onion Metaphor. Hence, the onion is multilayered and when each layer is peeled off then one by one it uncovers itself. There are number of stages in the Social Penetration Theory according to Altman and Taylor, which are; Orientation, Exploratory Affective Exchange, Affective Exchange, Stable Exchange, and Depenetration.

1.5 Organization of the Study

The organization of this thesis will be as follows:

Chapter I : INTRODUCTION

Chapter I contains the introduction of the study. The introduction consists of background of the study, scope of the study, the purpose of the study, methods of the study, and organization of the study.

(Waters)

Chapter II : THE SYNOPSIS OF *MEAN GIRLS*

Chapter II contains the summary of the film used for the study. In this section, summary of the film *Mean Girls* will be given.

Chapter III : LITERARY REVIEW

Chapter III contains the literary review.

Chapter IV : THIRD CULTURE KID'S EFFECT ON CHARACTER OF CADY HERON IN *MEAN GIRLS*

Chapter IV contains the analysis of the study. In this part, there will be parts that are defined in the study, discussion, and analyzes the subjects that is written in the scope of the study and purpose of the study. Also, it supports the literary review on chapter III.

Chapter V : CONCLUSION

Chapter V contains the conclusion of the study. The conclusion summarizes all the discussion of the study.

CHAPTER II

SYNOPSIS

Cady Heron is a 16-year-old teenage girl that was homeschooled whilst living in Africa for 12 years. Both of Cady's parents are research zoologists in Africa. Cady's mother gets tenure at Northwestern University. At that point, it was time for Cady to say goodbye to Africa and hello to high school. As she moves to America, she starts to enter school. It is hard for her to go to school because in Africa Cady was homeschooled and on the first day of school, everything seems so bizarre in her eyes. She is a very gullible person in high school since she was homeschooled in Africa. She is different from the others and is in much difficulty in blending in with the other kids in school. Everyone at lunchtime has his or her own groups and she does not have a friend to sit with so on the first day she ate lunch at the toilet.

Later on, Cady has her first friends named Damian and Janis whom are to be called as art freaks. Damian and Janis introduce Cady to *The Plastics* while sitting by the grass. *The Plastics* are the teen royalty. It consists of Regina George as the "Queen Bee" or the head of *The Plastics*, she is the cruelest and controllable person, Karen Smith as the dumbest girl that is clueless about everything, and Gretchen Wieners, which is the gossip girl, she knows every story about everyone but she acts mean because of Regina. Gretchen is the nicest one in the group but Regina turns down her friendliness to become mean to everyone. The three of them are very rich kids.

One lunchtime, Cady is called to sit with The Plastic by Regina after Regina helped her out of a flirt from a guy. Cady is told to have lunch with *The Plastics* for a whole week. After having lunch with them day by day Cady starts to understand that being with *The Plastics* has lots of rules such as, ‘on Wednesdays, we wear pink’, ‘you can’t wear tank top two days in a row’, ‘you can only wear your hair in ponytail once a week’, ‘we only wear jeans or track pants on Fridays’, and many more. If any of the rules are broken, then Cady or any of *The Plastics* are not able to sit with *The Plastics*.

Cady Heron is an expert in math class so she has good grades and she is asked to join the Mathletes as being the girl in the group and her teacher encourages her. However, Regina and Damian says that it is a social suicide but on the other hand, Cady has her own intentions in joining Mathletes. In her math class, there is one guy that she likes and his name is Aaron Samuels which was Regina’s ex-boyfriend. She is told not to like him because of that specific reason.

The longer she hangs out with *The Plastics*, the more she knows how mean and bossy she is to everyone, including her mother. She over controls everyone. *The Plastics* have Burn Book where there are pictures of girls and write mean things about them. Then, unconsciously, Cady starts to become as cruel as them gradually. The attitude, the words, the style, and everything. She did not realize that she mocks her own friend, Damian, with Janis’ words.

Cady is then invited to a Halloween party by Aaron and did not come to the party with the right costume. She did not know about the rules of

dressing up sexy for Halloween. At that party she is crushed by Regina that got close to Aaron just to make Cady heartbroken so she would not get close to him anymore.

Since it is just a small plan to know about *The Plastics* through Cady because Janis hates them and wants to sabotage them indirectly, Damian, Janis, and Cady made plans to sabotage *The Plastics* one by one. It starts from Gretchen, Karin, and then Regina because Regina cannot stand without her two girls. However, at the same time, Cady starts to become like one of them and as time goes by, it becomes even worse. She dresses so flirty, she talks dirty about people, she drinks, and more. Not only Cady that has become a problem, The Plastics also became a problem because of the sabotage, and the whole girls in school became chaos because of the Burn Book. After all the sabotage, she then realizes that she has changed completely to be one of them as told by Damian, Janis, and Aaron. Cady has become a clone of Regina. Nobody then likes her in school.

At the end, things changes, even though she has gone through so much from being a jungle freak to plastic to the most hated to a normal human being, she learns what she has gone through. The Girl World is then at peace.

CHAPTER III

LITERARY REVIEW

3.1 INTRINSIC ASPECTS

According to *Metode Penelitian Sastra* by Atar Semi, in literary work, intrinsic aspects are the aspects which builds the literary work from the movie itself. Intrinsic aspect consists of theme, plot, setting, character, characterization, story, and figure of speech (Semi, 1993:35).

The movie itself have a plot, story, characters, and other features that resembles a literary work. However, the primary means of delivery is a visual; using moving images, frame by frame. More so, the film also uses dialogues which is the companion tool to usher the audiences into the imagination of the author, like other literary works. Movie itself can be considered a literary work in some ways.

3.1.1 Narrative Elements

3.1.1.1 Setting

Setting is one of the intrinsic aspects in a movie which gives the movie the support on the realty or believable. Setting consists of place, time, and social background where the story happens. It is stated in *A Handbook to Literature: 4th Edition* of Holman's that, "setting is whether physical or spiritual background which the action of a narrative story take place" (1980 : 491).

3.1.1.1.1 Setting Of Place

Setting of place is the main of the object where it indicates where the story happens. “The idea of setting includes the physical environment of a story: a house, a street, a city, a landscape, a region” (Kennedy, 1987 : 68) Thus, it develops the atmosphere in the story for the reader to understand better.

3.1.1.1.2 Setting Of Time

Setting of time indicates the time of when the event occurs in the story. It is claimed by Kennedy that other than places, setting may crucially involve the time of the story, year, or century (1987:68). Thus, the setting of time relates to the time of the story in the movie but not only the years, months, and dates but also the weather periods that occurs at that specific time.

3.1.1.1.3 Setting Of Social Background

Setting of social background indicates the projection of the society of where the character exists. It grasps the situation of society, social classes, customs, accents, and lifestyles of the character (Kennedy, 1987: 68). Thus, the setting of social background is able to affect the story.

3.1.1.2 CHARACTER

Character is important in the movie; it has an important function to present the idea of the story. Every character present different characteristics and aspects depending on the script of the story. Characters deliver many ideas about the story from the smallest conflict to the biggest conflict. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro’s *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* is a person or people presented in a

narrative work or a drama which is interpreted by readers as having moral qualities and some tendencies which is expressed in utterance and done in action (2002:165). Characters are played by someone which acts as the personality of certain characters and becomes the events and the conflict maker of the story.

There are two types of character in a story which are major character and minor character. According to Semi in *Metode Penelitian Sastra* (1993:7),

a. Major Character:

Major character is the character that is dominant, the most frequent appearance in the story, and the main attention of the story.

b. Minor Character:

Minor character is the character that rarely appears or even never appears at all, only been told by the character that frequently appears in the story.

3.1.1.3 CONFLICT

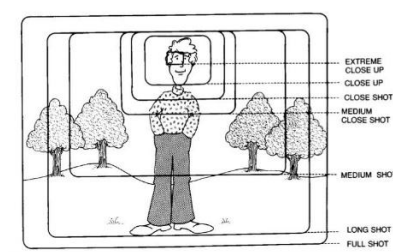
According to Chin, there are two kinds of conflict which are internal and external conflicts (2000 : 1). The internal conflict occurs dealing with an internal problem of a human being. For example, the conflict comes from the two desires, beliefs, different options, expectations, or other problems (Chin, 2000:1). On the other hand, the external conflict is defined as a struggle between a character and an outside force, such as another character, society,

nature or fate (2000 : 1). This conflict takes place due to clash between characters or with something outside of him in the movie.

3.1.2 Cinematography Element

3.1.2.1 Shot Distance

According to Bordwell & Thompson, there are seven shot distances; extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close-up, close-up, and extreme close up (2008:191).



Pict. 01. Shot Scale (Source: https://classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/583/flashcards/1269583/jpg/shot_scale1330634223254.jpg)

3.1.2.1.1 Extreme Long Shot

Extreme long shot is a long-distance shot. This shot is used to frame landscape, and a bird's-eye view of cities (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191).

3.1.2.1.2 Long Shot

Long shot is more projecting than the extreme shot, but the background still dominates the shot (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191). It focuses on the subject of the frame.

3.1.2.1.3 Medium Long Shot

Medium long shot is more of the human figure that is framed from about the knees up (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191). It is enough to show the physical setting of the event taken place and able to show facial expressions.

3.1.2.1.4 Medium Shot

Medium shot is more projected to the object which makes the frame of human body from the waist up (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191). It shows emotions, gestures, and expressions of the object.

3.1.2.1.5 Medium Close Up

Medium close up frames the body from the chest up (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191). Expression of the object can be seen clearer.

3.1.2.1.6 Close Up

Close up is a shot which shows just the head, hand, feet, or a small object which is purposely used to show emotion of the object (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191).

3.1.4.1.7 Extreme Close Up

Extreme close up depicts some detailed aspects of an object like ear, nose, eye, and other small parts of the object. (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008:191).

3.1.2.2 Audio Aspect

According to Himawan Pratista's book *Memahami Film* (2008 : 23) sound is classified to three types which are music, dialogue, and sound effect. Music illustrations is the back sound which accompanies the story and are usually used to support the mood of the scene, such as happy, sad, angry, and so on (Pratista, 2008: 156). Dialogue is a verbal form of communication language which is used by the characters in the story and it is not separated from the spoken language which strongly influenced by certain accents (Pratista, 2008:149). Sound effect is used for filling the back sound of the real place or incident of which will influence the audience in the mood of the story (Pratista, 2008:156).

3.1.2.3 Mise-En-Scene

Mise-en-scene is an important element which supports the process of film-making. Pratista stated that, "mise-en-scene is everything related to the cinematic elements that will support the production of a film" (2008:61). There are several aspects that are included in mise-en-scene which are setting, costume, make up, lighting, and acting.

3.2 EXTRINSIC ASPECTS

3.2.1 Social Penetration Theory

The Interpersonal Communication Book by Joseph A. DeVito shows that there are stages in building a relationship. In other words, people do not become friends right away after they met; the relationship grows gradually between one another. It can be seen on Table 1 which displays the variety of interpersonal communication model of stages by many writers. Nonetheless, the relationship development stages are relatively the same except modified to different models.

DeVito	Levinger	Knapp	Wood	Altman and Taylor	Krug	Swensen
Contact	Zero contact Awareness Surface content	Initiating	Individuals (alone and receptive) Invitational (communication)	Orientation	Initiation	Sampling
Involvement	Mutuality Moderate interaction	Experimenting Intensifying	Explorational communication Intensifying Revising	Exploratory affective exchange	Experimentation Liking Trial	Bargaining
Intimacy	Major intersection	Integrating Bonding	Bonding Navigating	Affective exchange	Coupling Stabilization – nurturance	Commitment Institutionalization
Deterioration		Differentiating Circumscribing Stagnating Avoiding Terminating	Differentiating Disintegrating Stagnating	Stable exchange	Stabilization – conflict development	
Dissolution		Terminating	Terminating Individuals		Termination Avoidance Maintenance	

Table 1 Models of Relational Development (DeVito, 1989:288)

Irwin Altman and Dalmis Taylor's Social Penetration Theory will apply in the thesis to analyze the problem. According to Altman and Taylor in

their book *Social Penetration: The Development of Interpersonal Relationship*, “The social penetration theory states that as relationships develop, communication moves from relatively shallow, non-intimate levels to deeper, more personal ones.” (1973) In Altman and Taylor’s perspective, they compared people to onion or in other words, Onion Metaphor. Hence, the onion is multilayered and when each layer is peeled off then one by one it uncovers itself. There are number of stages in the Social Penetration Theory according to Altman and Taylor, which are;

- A. Orientation**, in this Orientation stage, it is more known of something as, “...play safe with small talk and simple, harmless clichés...”. (Altman and Taylor, “Social Penetration Theory”, par.1) As the foremost stage where individuals are not yet open to their surroundings, feeling cautious in their relations and give little information about themselves to others.
- B. Exploratory Affective Exchange**, according to Altman and Taylor’s perspectives, it can be considered that, “...this may not be the whole truth as we are not yet comfortable to lay ourselves bare. We are still feeling out way forward.” (Altman and Taylor, “Social Penetration Theory”, par.2) As the following stage where individuals start to feel more relaxed with their guard and shares more information about themselves beyond the orientation stage. Individuals in this stage are more friendly than the first stage.

C. Affective Exchange, at this point, the third layer, Affective Exchange, is opened which the individuals, "...start to talk about private and personal matters". (Altman and Taylor, "Social Penetration Theory", par.3) As the next stage where the fences of the individuals are broken down gradually, and an open exchange occurs between individuals. According to Altman and Taylor, this stage is considered as the stage where close friendships and relationships are built.

D. Stable Exchange, as specified by Altman and Taylor that in this phase is where, "the relationship now reaches a plateau in which personal things are shared and each can predict the emotional reactions of the other person". (Altman and Taylor, "Social Penetration Theory", par.4) In this stage is where individuals are open to other in interactions which understand each other and have better communication in a high level.

E. Depenetration, in the Social Penetration Theory, this last stage, Depenetration is, "when the relationship starts to break down and costs exceed benefits, then there is a withdrawal of disclosure which leads to termination of the relationship". (Altman and Taylor, "Social Penetration Theory", par.5) In this stage, the individuals begin to have a problem in the relationship and it could end the relationship itself because of a certain problem.

CHAPTER IV

THIRD CULTURE KID'S EFFECT ON CHARACTER OF CADY HERON IN *MEAN GIRLS*

The analysis of this thesis covers two aspects that is the intrinsic aspects and extrinsic aspects.

4.1 INTRINSIC ASPECTS

4.1.1 Setting

4.1.1.1 Setting Of Time

In the movie of *Mean Girls*, there is no written time that is stated. However, from watching the movie carefully, the writer makes conclusion that the time of the story is in the beginning of the year 2000s. The proof about the time is from the fashion or the clothes that are worn in the movie.



*Pict. 02 Cady wearing cowboy
shirt. (00:10:33)*



*Pict. 03 Boys wearing oversized
training clothes. (00:36:48)*



Pict. 04 The Black Hotties

wears 2000s fashion clothes.(00:05:04)

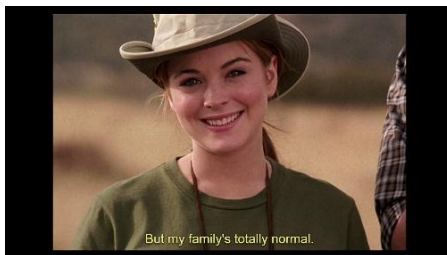
According to *buzzfeed.com*, in the article *27 Forgotten Early 2000s Fashion Trends* (2013), the 2000s-fashion consisted of peasant tops, shiny pants, fancy camo, beaded wire accessories, cowgirl shirts, halter tops, turtlenecks, and many more. There were several fashions that were shown in the movie as proof.

It can be seen in Pict. 02 in medium close up shot distance where it shows her wearing a cowboy shirt. Also, in Pict. 03, in a long shot distance of the boys that are performing in the winter talent show, it shows that they are wearing baggy training clothes and it was considered ‘the hype’ back in the early 2000s. More so, in Pict. 04, in medium close up shot distance, it can be seen that the *black hotties* are wearing the typical clothes that are worn in the year 2000s.

Another proof about the time is from one of the songs presented in the movie, which is Milkshake, by Kelis. It was played in one of the scene where Cady, Janis, and Damian were sitting by the grass and Damian and Janis were introducing The Plastics to Cady. According to Billboard, it is known that Kelis’ single, Milkshake, was released on the year 2003.

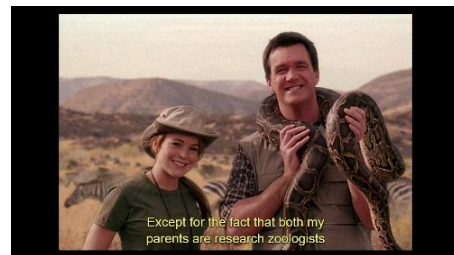
4.1.1.2 Setting Of Location

According to the movie, there are some location in the story. The first location is in Namibia, Africa where Cady and her family lives before moving to the United States. It is stated: CADY. “*My family’s totally normal. Except for the fact that both of my parents are research zoologists and we’ve spent the last 12 years in Africa.*” (00:01:27-00:01:33)



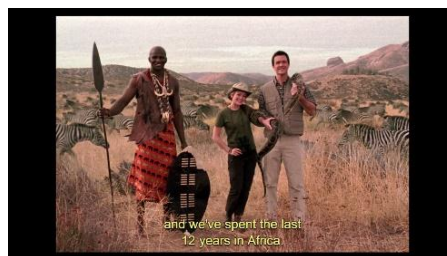
Pict. 05 Cady in Africa.

(00:01:28)



Pict. 06 Cady and dad in Africa.

(00:01:30)



Pict. 07 Cady and dad in frame

with an African in the view. (00:01:32)

As can be seen on Pict. 05 in medium close up, Pict. 06 in medium shot, and Pict. 07 in long shot distance shows setting of location in Africa where she had spent her life for 12 years with the African person and the animals in the location.

The second location is located in the United States, to be exact, in Evanston, Illinois where Cady goes to school. Cady goes to North Shore High School. It can be seen on the scene of Cady first day and having lunch time but she had no friends. It is also shown on some scenes where there are logos of the school. As stated, CADY. “*But so far, none in Evanston.*” (00:05:05-00:05:08)



Pict. 08 Cady’s first day escorted by her parents. (00:01:41)



Pict. 09 Cady being called to come in the car. (00:16:24)



Pict. 10 Cady entering class in the first day. (00:02:12)

It can be seen on Pict. 08 in medium shot with the background of her school, Pict. 09, it clearly shows the school logo on the school wall in long shot when Cady was being called by the Plastics to come hang out with them, and the logo can also be seen on Pict. 10 where Cady entered the first class in her first day in medium long shot and the logo is on the wall right under the telephone.

The third location is located in University of Chicago, more precisely in the auditorium where Cady and her mathlete team compete for state mathematic championship. It can be seen in Pict. 11, Pict. 12, and Pict. 13 which are shot in long shot presenting the location clearly.



Pict. 11 The parking lot of University of Chicago. (01:22:07)



Pict. 12 The contestants of the Mathletes on stage. (01:22:44)



Pict. 13 The auditorium of University of Chicago. (01:22:19)

The fourth location is located in Northwestern University campus where Aaron goes to college after graduating from high school to endure his study as seen in Pict. 14 in long shot.



Pict. 14 Northwestern University campus. (01:32:21)

4.1.2 CHARACTER

4.1.2.1 Cady Heron

According to the theory stated by Irwin Altman and Dalmas Taylor, Cady Heron is considered a Third Culture Kid because she moved from Africa to the United States. Cady Heron is a 16-year-old teenage girl that was homeschooled whilst living in Africa for 12 years. Both of Cady's parents are research zoologists in Africa. Cady's mother got offered tenure at Northwestern University. Cady explains that she is from Africa and was homeschooled to Regina George at lunch time where she was invited to sit with The Plastics. As stated on Pict. 15 and Pict. 16, CADY. "I used to be homeschooled. My mom taught me at home."



*Pict. 15 Cady talking to Regina.
(00:10:43)*



*Pict. 16 Regina looks interested
talking to Cady. (00:01:44)*



Pict. 17 Cady looks very confused. (00:11:55)

It can be seen on Pict. 17 in medium close up shot where it expresses her confused face while talking with Regina for the first time. She was a very gullible person in high school since she was homeschooled in Africa. She was different from the others and was in much difficulty in blending in with the other kids in school. Everyone at lunch time had their own groups and she wouldn't have a friend to sit with so on the first day she ate lunch at the toilet.

In the beginning of the story, Cady Heron was such a simple girl that does not care about things around her. She was just a down-to-earth type of girl from Africa. Cady Heron is not the type of girl who cares about her look as she just wears a cowgirl shirt topped with a basic green jacket and brown flare pants. Her hair is just put into a low ponytail and she basically has no make-up on. She has a very nice personality as she talks nicely to everyone and is very calm considering the others are just rude.



*Pict. 18 Cady greeting the
Black Hotties.(00:05:02)*



*Pict. 19 The Black Hotties
looking weird at her. (00:05:05)*



Pict. 20 Cady looking upset after being rejected for greeting. (00:05:06)

It can be seen in a scene (00:05:02-00:05:06), where it was lunchtime and Cady greeted the *black hotties* saying CADY. “Jambo!” with a big smile and wave in Pict. 18 in medium close up shot, yet, the *black hotties* were weirded-out by her greet as shown in Pict. 19 in medium shot where they were showing a weird face to Cady after greeting them. Then, in Pict. 20, Cady expresses her face in a very confused way in medium close up.

Another gullible scene (00:05:59-00:06:53) was when she met Janis and Damian and asked where a class is and they said it is in the back building when the back building had actually burnt down. Cady is actually missing class because of Janis and Damian and she was asking all about why they are doing this to her and what will happen but Janis and Damian said that they are friends so they would not get each other in trouble for missing class.



Pict. 21 Cady talking to Janis and Damian. (00:05:59)



Pict. 22 Janis and Damian being friendly to Cady. (00:06:08)



Pict. 23 Cady looking confused. (00:06:32)



Pict. 24 Cady being gullible. (00:06:37)

Furthermore, as Cady gets to know The Plastics, the more she changed her but unconsciously. She has changed physically and mentally. It all started from Cady being friends with Janis which has a revenge for Regina. Since from the first Cady had talked to Regina, and was invited indirectly to become one of The Plastics, and got heart-broken by Regina from a Halloween party where Regina kissed Cady's crush, Aaron, Janis, Cady, and Damian decided to make a huge revenge on Regina. It can be seen on the monologue below, after the Halloween party and Cady goes to Janis' place and they start their plan for the revenge.

JANIS : Regina George is an evil dictator. How do you overthrow a dictator? You cut off her resources. Regina would be nothing without her high-status man candy, technically good physique,

and ignorant band of royal followers. (Janis, *Mean Girls*, 00:29:33-00:30:00)

As the story goes on, the more Cady changed and become one of them. Aaron even said that Cady has changed in becoming a clone of Regina in one scene. Cady has changed the way she dresses, the way she talks, and the way she treats people until everyone in school knows her but in a bad way. She was gradually known as a bad person because of what she became after joining The Plastics. She is also later on hated by her closest friends, Janis and Damian.

In the end of the movie, things changed, even though she had gone through so much from being a jungle freak to plastic to the most hated to a normal human being, she learned what she has gone through.

4.1.2.2 *The Plastics*

The Plastics are the teen royalty. It consists of Regina George as the “Queen Bee” or the head of *The Plastics*, she is the cruelest and controllable person, Karen Smith as the dumbest girl that is clueless about everything, and Gretchen Wieners, which is the gossip girl, she knows every story about everyone but she acts mean because of Regina. Gretchen is the nicest one in the group but Regina turns down her friendliness to become mean to everyone. The three of them are very rich kids. It can be seen on Pict. 25 in medium long shot, Pict. 26 in long shot, and Pict. 27 in medium shot which shows whom *The Plastics* are and how they are.



Pict. 25 The Plastics having lunch.

(00:09:43)



Pict. 26 The Plastics in Regina's room.

(00:19:13)

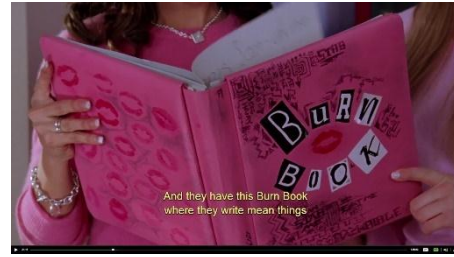


Pict. 27 The Plastics looking at the mirror. (00:19:40)

Regina called out on Cady to sit with *The Plastics* after Regina helped her out of a flirt from a guy. *The Plastics* had lots of rules such as, 'on Wednesdays, we wear pink', 'you can't wear tank top two days in a row', 'you can only wear your hair in ponytail once a week', 'we only wear jeans or track pants on Fridays', and many more. If any of the rules are broken, then Cady or any of *The Plastics* are not able to sit with *The Plastics*. *The Plastics* have Burn Book where there are pictures of girls and write mean things about them.



*Pict. 28 Cady having lunch with
The Plastics. (00:13:42)*



Pict. 29 The Burn Book. (00:21:15)



Pict. 30 Cady and The Plastics talking about the Burn Book (00:20:44)

The Plastics, more so, Regina, is mean and bossy. She is mean to everyone including her mother but her mother is cool about it. She over controls everyone. It can be seen in the scene where she was at home and her mom talks to Cady about her being a cool mom but Regina said to her mom to stop talking (00:19:01) and also when her mother went to her room to have a little conversation with *The Plastics* but Regina tells her mother to go away (00:20:29). She is capable in controlling her parents like the fact that she got her parents bedroom as a trade for herself (00:19:14). More so, she talks about people behind their back and crushes her own friends' feelings.



*Pict. 31 Regina's mother.
(00:18:59)*



*Pict. 32 Regina being rude
to her own mother. (00:19:01)*



*Pict. 33 Regina forces her
mother to go away.(00:20:29)*



*Pict. 34 Regina telling story
about her room. (00:19:14)*

Gretchen Wieners is one of “Regina’s little workers” but she is the nicest one out of all even though she seems cruel and mean to everyone. She knows everything about everyone. However, because of Regina, Gretchen is not able to become herself as she stated in the bathroom to Cady about her not being able to wear hoop earring because Regina said it was her thing. It can be seen on the conversation below on 00:40:46-00:41:02. At the end, after the entire girl problem are done, Gretchen found some new friends.

GRETCHEN : You know that I’m not allowed to wear hoop earrings, right? Yeah, two years ago, she told me hoop earrings were her thing and I wasn’t allowed to wear them anymore. And then for Hanukah, my parents got me this really expensive white gold hoops and I had to pretend I didn’t even like them anymore. It was so sad. (Gretchen, *Mean Girls*, 00:40:46-00:41:02)

Gretchen is mentally hurt from Regina but she cannot be without her. Gretchen eventually got fed-up by Regina and released her anger when Regina broke the rules of The Plastics as seen in Pict. 35 in medium close up. It can also be seen how she express her madness in Pict. 36 and Pict. 37 in medium close up about how Regina treated her.



Pict. 35 Gretchen expressing madness. (00:54:12)



Pict. 36 Gretchen expressing confusion. (00:35:06)



Pict. 37 Gretchen being furious. (00:40:15)

Another “Regina’s little worker” is Karen Smith. Karen Smith is one of the dumbest girl. She is a rich kid like Regina and Gretchen but her brain is a little bit dull. Karen once said, KAREN. “*So if you’re from Africa...then why are you white?*” with an imprudent look on her face on Pict. 38 in medium close up. She always looks up to Regina George but she doesn’t really realize how mean she is until one time Gretchen four-way-called Karen with Cady saying that Regina called her a “slut” whilst Karen has Regina on

the other line and then Karen makes up an excuse to Regina about not going out with Regina by saying she's sick and then Regina said "boo, you whore" (00:53:26). It can be seen on Pict. 39 and Pict. 40 in medium close up, which describes the four-way-call and Karen showing her shocked face after being called a whore.



*Pict. 38 Karen being dumb.
(00:11:27)*



*Pict. 39 The Plastics and Cady
in a four-way-call. (00:53:26)*



Pict. 40 Karen is shocked that Regina backstabbed her. (00:53:44)

4.1.3 Conflict

According to this movie, the writer focuses on one of the character which is Cady Heron. In this movie, Cady Heron has an internal conflict where she fights with herself. Cady has some conflicts with herself which happens in the movie. In one scene, she was possessed of herself, she has gone crazy, she was not the old self she was. It can be seen on the monologue below;

CADY (V.O.) : “I was a woman possessed, I spend about 80%of my time talking about Regina and the other 20% of the time I was praying for someone to bring her up so I could talk about her even more...I could hear people getting bored with me but I couldn’t stop, it just kept coming up like word vomit.” (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:44:12-00:44:32)

She has become one of The Plastics that is mean, rude, evil, and dresses very naughty and she admits it. Not only does she become one of them but she also talks about Regina behind her back. In the movie, Cady seems to be living a double life.

Another conflict with herself was when the Burn Book of *The Plastics* were known by everyone in school and all the girls in school starts to become wild. All the girls were fighting with each other, madness and rage everywhere. At that point, Cady was the center of attention of the school by the crowd of girls because the accusation was on Cady and she felt that she had become a bad person.

CADY (V.O.) : “Have you ever walked up to people and realize they were just talking about you? Have you ever had it happen sixty times in a row? I have.” (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 01:08:37-01:08:47)

Not only does Cady Heron have an internal conflict but Cady also had conflict with her surroundings, especially her close friends, Damian and Janis. Janis and Damian are the ones who became her first friends in high school and even though they had the sabotage plan but it turns out that Cady was betraying them indirectly until one scene where the friendship crashed when Cady hosted a party but did not invite Janis and Damian but at that time

as well, it was Janis' art show that Cady's invited to. It was bad enough that Cady did not attend Janis' art show and using the excuse that she has a plan with her family when she actually held a party at her place and not inviting Janis and Damian. It can be seen on the conversation below between Janis and Cady;

CADY : You know I couldn't invite you, I had to be Plastic.

JANIS : Hey buddy you're not pretending anymore, you're plastic. Cold, shiny, hard plastic. Did you have an awesome time? Did you drink awesome shooters and listen to awesome music and then just sit around and soak up each other's awesomeness?

CADY : You know what? You're the one who made me like this so you could use me for your eighth-grade revenge.

JANIS : God, see at least me and Regina George know we're mean, you're trying to act like you're someone innocent like 'Oh I used to live in Africa with all the little birdies and the little monkeys.'

CADY : You know what, it's not my fault you're like in love with me or something!

JANIS : What?! See, that is the thing with you Plastics, you think that everybody's in love with you when actually everybody hates you like Aaron Samuels for example, he broke up with Regina and guess what? He still doesn't want you. So why are you still messing with Regina, Cady? I'll tell you why, 'cause you are a mean girl. You're a bitch! (THROWS A PAINTING OF JANIS, DAMIAN, AND CADY) Here, you can have this, you won a prize. (Janis and Cady, *Mean Girls*, 01:00:38-01:01:39)

4.2 EXTRINSIC ASPECTS

4.2.1 Social Penetration Theory

Growing up in different environments, cultures, and society means having different perspectives, different influences, and many more differences. Every individual is naturally born to socialize with the society and learn new things about the society and surroundings and from this, people will absorb the

culture. In this movie, Cady Heron, is a girl that moved from Africa to the United States because of her mother that got a tenure in Northwestern University.

As a person who has lived in Africa for 12 years and moved to the United States, Cady Heron is considered to be a Third Culture Kid. Throughout the movie, Cady experiences stages of Third Culture Kid as stated by Altman and Taylor which helps her evade social isolation while preserving her identity through some roles. As being a “spy” in The Plastics, Cady is able to change roles naturally and this is so she could fit it and also, as a Third Culture Kid, it is natural to change identities according to the people, surroundings, and cultures.

Cady’s familiarity to a culture is the African culture where it is out in the wilds with the animals and African language. Cady is used to the wilds and the culture. Sometimes in the movie it shows scenes where it is from her perspective, the wild side of Africa, as can be seen on the monologues below.

CADY (V.O.) : Something about that mall made me feel like I was back in Africa, by the watering hole... (JUNGLE SOUND) (ALL THE HUMANS ACTED AS ANIMALS) ...in the spring, when all the animals were in heat. (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:16:55-00:17:13)

In this monologue, Cady Heron describes what she sees went in a mall with The Plastics and she saw a water fountain. That scene completely changed her view about how it would be if she was in Africa. She described all the human beings as animals in the wild. There is also a back sound of a

jungle so as the audience, we are able to understand Cady's familiarity to the African culture.

CADY (V.O.) : Regina was dangling Aaron in front of me on purpose, I knew how this would be settled in the animal world... (CADY BECOME WILD AND SO DO THE OTHER KIDS) ...but this was girl world and in the girl world, all the fighting had to be sneaky. (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:30:47-00:31:10)

In this monologue, she described the location which was in the cafeteria at lunch time and Regina was trying to make Cady jealous by touching Aaron in front of her and then again, Cady had the imagination in her head how it would be settled in the animal world. There was also the jungle back sound and illustration of the human beings acting as animals.

CADY (V.O.) : It was fault to jungle madness (GIRLS GONE WILD) (JUNGLE SOUND) ...and it wasn't going away (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 01:07:50-01:07:59)

The monologue above show Cady's perspective in understanding her world and her way of understanding the rituals so she can blend in the society. Throughout the movie, Cady learns to blend in with her new society and culture. Cady has gone through several steps according to Irwin Altman and Dalmas Taylor's Social Penetration Theory which are Orientation, Exploratory Affective Exchange, Affective Exchange, and Stable Exchange.

A. Orientation

On this stage, Cady is not very open to anyone nor to her surroundings. This is shown in the beginning of the movie where on

the monologue below, she seemed to be not so open because Cady was just answering Damian's question very basic and not much of information were given. Moreover, she seemed very gullible as said before.

DAMIAN : Is that your natural hair color?
CADY : Yeah.
DAMIAN : It's gorgeous.
CADY : Thank you.
DAMIAN : See, this is the color I want.
JANIS : This is Damian, he's almost too gay to function.
CADY : Huh..nice to meet you. (Damian, Cady, and Janis, *Mean Girls*, 00:05:39-00:05:50)

Not only to Janis and Damian that she is not so open to but also to other people including The Plastics. On this stage, Cady just basically stays quite if not asked or even if Cady was given a question, she would just answer with just a yes or no or with a nod. She doesn't give so much information out to anyone. It can be seen on the conversation below between Regina and Cady at lunch time on Cady's first day. Regina was talking to Cady like she was investigating on Cady in a very sarcastic way. Likewise, Regina is a backstabber so she tries to look nice and talk to her. Yet, Cady does not reply much. Cady is just answering simply and to the point.

REGINA : Why don't I know you?
CADY : I'm new. I just moved here from Africa.
REGINA : What?
CADY : I used to be homeschooled.
REGINA : Wait, what?
CADY : My mom taught me at home.

REGINA : No, no, no. I know what homeschooled is. I'm not retarded. So you've actually never been to real school before?

CADY : *SHAKES HER HEAD*

REGINA : Shut up!

CADY : *SHAKES HER HEAD*

REGINA : *LOOKS AT GRETCHEN AND KAREN, THEN LOOKS AT CADY.* Shut up?!

CADY : I didn't say anything.

REGINA : Homeschooled? That's really interesting.

CADY : Thanks.

REGINA : But you're like really pretty.

CADY : Thank you. *SMILES*

REGINA : So, you agree?

CADY : What?

REGINA : You agree that you're really pretty?

CADY : *CONFUSED.* Oh, I don't know.

REGINA : Oh my god, I love your bracelet. Where did you get it?

CADY : Oh, my mom made it for me. *HOLDING AND LOOKING AT HER BRACELET.* (Regina and Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:10:41 – 00:10:59)

B. Exploratory Affective Exchange

On this stage, Cady starts to open a little bit more than the orientation stage. Cady starts having a deeper conversation with Janis and Damian as seen in the conversation below.

JANIS : Why don't they just keep homeschooling you?

CADY : They wanted me to get socialized.

DAMIAN : Oh you'll get socialized alright a little slice like you.

CADY : What are you talking about?

JANIS : You're a regulation hottie.

CADY : What?

DAMIAN : Own it. (Cady, Janis, and Damian, *Mean Girls*, 00:07:07-00:07:19)

Cady gets a little bit more open or talks a bit more after going out with The Plastics and then meeting Janis and Damian telling what

she knows. The way she starts the talk is different than the orientation because she was more eager in talking about it. The way she was telling it was more like she was telling a story to a friend (00:21:16). At this point, Cady is starting to be a little more comfortable.

CADY : And they have this book, this Burn Book where they write mean things about all the girls in our grade.

JANIS : What does it say about me?

CADY : *LIES*. You're not in it.

JANIS : Those bitches. (Damian asks about a cream) ...Cady, you gotta steal that book.

CADY : No way.

JANIS : Oh c'mon, we could publish it and then everybody can see what an ax-wound she really is.

CADY : I don't steal.

JANIS : Cady, there are two kinds of evil people; people who do evil stuff and people who see evil stuff being done and don't try to stop it. (Cady and Janis, *Mean Girls*, 00:21:16-00:21:43)

C. Affective Exchange

On this stage, Cady starts to be more and more comfortable. She starts to get used to her friends including The Plastics.



Pict. 41 The Plastics and Cady performing. (00:38:04)



Pict. 42 Cady being like one of The Plastics. (00:44:21)



Pict. 43 Cady dressing naughty. (00:44:21)

CADY : I hate her. She's totally failing me on purpose 'cause I didn't join those stupid mathletes. She was so queer. She was like 'I'm a pusher Cady, I'm a pusher.'

REGINA : *LAUGHS*. What does that even mean?

GRETCHEN : Like a drug pusher?

CADY : Probably. She said she works three jobs. You know, I bet she sells drugs on the side to pay for her pathetic divorce.

GRETCHEN : You let it out honey. *GIVES THE BURN BOOK TO CADY*. Put it in the book.

CADY : *TAKES THE BOOK*.

CADY (V.O.) : I know it might look like I'm becoming a bitch but that was only because I was acting like a bitch. (Cady, Regina, and Gretchen, *Mean Girls*, 00:50:47-00:51:19)

Cady was starting to get closer and closer with *The Plastics* and the closer she got, the same exact type of person she became. She gradually understood how *The Plastics* were and unconsciously Cady starts to become one of them. To be more precise, Cady is starting to become a clone of Regina. Gradually, she starts to dress a little bit naughty and talk about Regina behind her back. It can be seen on Pict. 41, Pict. 42, and Pict. 43 in medium long shot that the way Cady dresses have become much more alike to *The Plastics*. Since Cady has become closer to *The Plastics*, she and *The Plastics* have shared more than enough information about each other and other people. Ironically,

Cady started to become one of *The Plastics* as can be seen on the dialogue above, 00:50:47-00:51:19, the way she talks and how she talks about someone else, which in this case is her teacher. She made up stories about Ms. Norburi just because she was mad at her.

CADY (V.O.) : ...and with Regina's blessing, I started talking to Aaron, more and more. On October third, he asked me what day it was. Two weeks later, we spoke again but I wanted things to move faster. So, I followed my instincts.

CADY : *POKES AARON FROM BEHIND.* Hey, um...I'm totally lost. Can you help me?

CADY (V.O.) : but I wasn't. I knew exactly what Ms. Norburi was talking about. (Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:23:52-00:24:17)

AARON : You wanna go downstairs?

CADY : No, no, no, let's stay here.

AARON : Thanks for getting me come out tonight.

CADY : Yeah, sure, no problem.

AARON : I wasted too much time on being pissed off on Regina. No more liars.

CADY : I would never lie to you.

AARON : Right. I know.

CADY : Although *GIGGLES*. Okay listen, I mean, I did lie to you once but you're totally gonna laugh when I tell you. So..

AARON : Tell me what?

CADY : I pretended to be bad at math so you'd help me but the thing is I'm not really bad at math. I'm actually really good at math. You're kinda bad at math. Anyways, now I'm failing. Isn't that funny?

AARON : Wait, you're failing on purpose? That's stupid.

CADY : No, not on purpose. It's just you know, I just wanted a reason to talk to you.

AARON : So, why don't you just talk to me?

CADY : 'cause I couldn't. Because of Regina. Because you were her property.

AARON : Her property?

CADY : No, shut up. Not her property.
AARON : No, don't tell me to shut up. God. You know what? You are just like a clone of Regina.
(Cady and Aaron, *Mean Girls*, 00:59:00-01:00:02)

At this point, Cady starts to fall in love with a guy named Aaron Samuels in her math class and Cady always tries to find a way to talk to Aaron. On 00:23:52-00:24:17, it shows that Cady is desperate to talk with Aaron and she would try anything to be able to talk with him. She was not allowed to like Aaron by The Plastics because he was Regina's ex-boyfriend. It can be seen on 00:59:00-01:00:02 where Cady and Aaron talk in Cady's room. At that point, Cady was drunk and she was just falling for Aaron. She was unconscious of what she was saying to Aaron. It takes her no matter what to get his attention. More so, there was this distinctive point where Cady dumb herself out on math just to be able to get close to him.

D. Stable Exchange

On this last stage, Cady has become more confident than she was way before. She now has the courage to talk with Aaron and she now has the power to control everyone. On the sabotage plan with Janis and Damian, Cady starts to forget that what she's doing with The Plastics is just an act but instead, she became one of them and she starts to do whatever she wants.

CADY (V.O.) : I had learned how to control everyone around me.

(Cady, *Mean Girls*, 00:55:21)

E. Depenetration

At this point, Cady is consistently dressing like *The Plastics*, talking like *The Plastics*, acting like *The Plastics*. Cady gets too comfortable in her position in sabotaging Regina that she is forgetting Janis and Damian as her close friends. A scene where Cady was betraying them indirectly until one scene where the friendship crashed when Cady hosted a party but did not invite Janis and Damian but at that time as well, it was Janis' art show that Cady's invited to. It was bad enough that Cady did not attend Janis' art show and using the excuse that she has a plan with her family when she actually held a party at her place and not inviting Janis and Damian. It can be seen on the dialogue below;

CADY : You know I couldn't invite you, I had to be Plastic.

JANIS : Hey buddy you're not pretending anymore, you're plastic. Cold, shiny, hard plastic. Did you have an awesome time? Did you drink awesome shooters and listen to awesome music and then just sit around and soak up each other's awesomeness?

CADY : You know what? You're the one who made me like this so you could use me for your eighth-grade revenge.

JANIS : God, see at least me and Regina George know we're mean, you're trying to act like you're someone innocent like 'Oh I used to live in Africa with all the little birdies and the little monkeys.'

CADY : You know what, it's not my fault you're like in love with me or something!

JANIS : What?! See, that is the thing with you Plastics, you think that everybody's in love with you when actually everybody hates you like Aaron Samuels for example,

he broke up with Regina and guess what? He still doesn't want you. So why are you still messing with Regina, Cady? I'll tell you why, 'cause you are a mean girl. You're a bitch! (THROWS A PAINTING OF JANIS, DAMIAN, AND CADY) Here, you can have this, you won a prize. (Janis and Cady, *Mean Girls*, 01:00:38-01:01:39)

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

According to the result of the analysis on the chapter earlier, Cady Heron's character in the movie, *Mean Girls*, can be considered to be a Third Culture Kid. Throughout the movie, Cady experiences stages of Third Culture Kid as stated by Altman and Taylor which helps her evade social isolation while preserving her identity through some roles. As being a "spy" in The Plastics, Cady is able to change roles naturally and this is so she could fit in and also, as a Third Culture Kid, it is natural to change identities according to the people, surroundings, and cultures.

Cady's familiarity to a culture is the African culture where it is out in the wilds with the animals and African language. However, ever since Cady moved to North Shore High School, she has become a different person. As known from the beginning of the movie, Cady was a gullible girl and dresses properly but as time goes by, she becomes one of The Plastics, which is the teen royalty of the North Shore High School.

The five stages in Altman and Taylor's Social Penetration Theory supported the evidences that show the process of adaption in the character of the movie. Starting from the first stage until the last stage, the writer had been able to show all the stages that are experience by the main character, Cady Heron in the movie, *Mean Girls*. Hence, it can be concluded that *Mean Girls*

successfully proves the existence of Orientation, Exploratory Affective Exchange, Affective Exchange, Stable Exchange, and Depenetration as five stages of the Social Penetration Theory by Altman and Taylor.

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